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## INVESTIGATION OF THE ESSENCE AND COMPONENTS OF THE CATEGORICAL FRAMEWORK OF ENTERPRISE ECONOMIC SECURITY

**Sylkin O.S., Nahirna O.V., Vysotska I.B. Investigation of the essence and components of the categorical framework of enterprise economic security.** The importance of the formation of theoretical and methodological foundations to ensure the economic security of domestic enterprises is substantiated. According to the results of research of the scientific heritage, the main approaches to the definition of the concept “economic security of an enterprise” are formed. The author’s approach is highlighted, which combines theoretical achievements with practical experience in ensuring economic security. The main components of the enterprise economic security are highlighted, in particular: financial, personnel, information, innovation, technology, and legal.

**Key words:** economic security of enterprise, enterprise, level of profitability, components of economic security of enterprise.

**Силкін О.С., Нагірна О.В., Висоцька І.Б. Дослідження сутності та складових категорійного апарату економічної безпеки підприємства.** Обґрунтовано важливість формування теоретико-методичних засад забезпечення економічної безпеки вітчизняних підприємств. За результатами дослідження наукового доробку, було сформовано основні підходи щодо визначення поняття «економічна безпека підприємства». Було виділено авторський підхід, який поєднує теоретичні здобутки із практичним досвідом гарантування економічної безпеки. Виділено основні складові економічної безпеки підприємства, зокрема: фінансова, кадрова, інформаційна, інноваційна, технологічна, правова.

**Ключові слова:** економічна безпека підприємства, підприємство, рівень рентабельності, складові економічної безпеки підприємства.

**Силкин А.С., Нагирна О.В., Высоцкая И.Б. Исследование сущности и составляющих категориального аппарата экономической безопасности предприятия.** Обоснована важность формирования теоретико-методических основ обеспечения экономической безопасности отечественных предприятий. По результатам исследования научного наследия, были сформированы основные подходы к определению понятия «экономическая безопасность предприятия». Было выделено авторский подход, который сочетает теоретические достижения с практическим опытом обеспечения экономической безопасности. Выделены основные составляющие экономической безопасности предприятия, в частности: финансовая, кадровая, информационная, инновационная, технологическая, правовая.

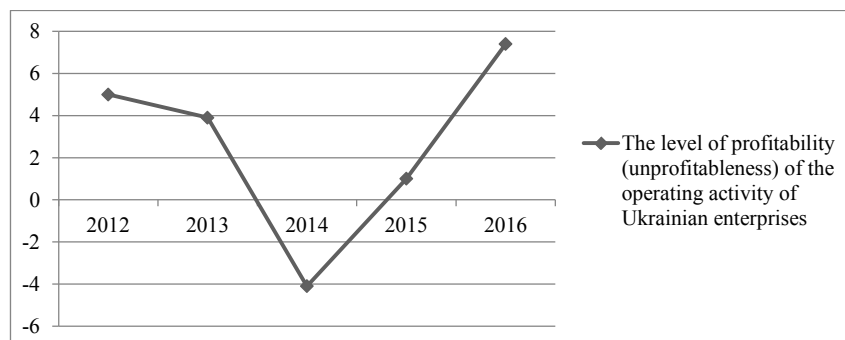
**Ключевые слова:** экономическая безопасность предприятия, предприятие, уровень рентабельности, составляющие экономической безопасности предприятия.

**Formulation of the problem.** Domestic enterprises are exposed every day by various kinds of factors that can threaten their level of security and lead to the formation of a crisis. Events such as the financial crisis in 2008, political and social instability caused by military actions in the East of Ukraine only increased the number of negative external factors that cause new threats and risks. As a consequence, for domestic enterprises today, there is a decline in production, a reduction in key financial performance indicators, an increase in production costs, and as a result, all this can lead to bankruptcy. A key role in the prevention of these factors is the presence and effective functioning of the enterprise's economic security system.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** A large number of scientific works have been devoted to the study of the economic security at the enterprise, among which the works of the following economists who examined the essence and components of this category V. Belokurov [1], N. Gapak [2], I. Dotsenko [3], A. Yepifanov [4], O. Melnyk [5], L. Lima [6], R. Skrinkovskiy [7], I. Shevchenko [8] etc.

**Isolation of previously unresolved parts of a common problem.** Despite a significant amount of scientific research, the system of views on the economic security of an enterprise is still insufficiently qualitatively and holistically formed in the scientific literature, and there is still no single integrated methodological base for managing the economic security of the enterprise.

**The purpose** of this article is to explore the essence and the main components of the economic security of an enterprise.



**Graph 1. Dynamics of the level of profitability (unprofitableness) of the operating activity of Ukrainian enterprises for the period of 2012–2016, %**  
Source: formed according to the source [9]

**Presentation of the main research material**  
**1. The level of importance of studying the concept of “economic security at the enterprise”**

As of today, domestic scientists are constantly in search of new opportunities to ensure the economic security of the enterprise. One of the reasons for such a particular attention is the unstable external environment of operation of Ukrainian enterprises, which significantly affects the main indicators of their activities. Profitability is one of the most important relative indicators, the use of which can often be found to assess the level of economic security at the enterprise.

The level of profitability of domestic enterprises during 2012–2016, demonstrates ambiguous results, starting from 2013 it is on the decline, and since 2015 – is growing. Meanwhile, in 2014 there is a significant decrease in this indicator (Graph 1).

In our opinion, such a sharp drop is due to the fact that through the military situation in our country, domestic enterprises have lost their main market, videlicet, the market of the Russian Federation. This market was previously very “loyal” to our producers and didn’t need high levels of technology and product quality.

Fluctuations in profitability along with a negative balance (according to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine [9], a negative balance was observed during 2014–2015) indicate the unsatisfactory financial performance of a large number of domestic enterprises.

But not all enterprises were able to adapt to the new politically unstable conditions existing in our country. Confirmation of this is the decrease in the total number of enterprises in Ukraine since 2015 (Graph 2).

The deteriorating situation is also confirmed by such a relative indicator as the number of enterprises per 10,000 people of the population.

In addition, it is important to emphasize that the number of large and medium-sized domestic enterprises is decreasing, which are the main source of filling the state and local budgets (Graph 3).

A confirmation of the thesis about the deterioration of the level of protection of Ukrainian enterprises is

also the fact that the number of employed workers has been declining since 2014. This is due to the growth of labour migration of the population of Ukraine and the visa-free regime adopted in 2017 only strengthens it. Also, we can talk about the insufficient level of motivation on the part of domestic enterprises.

In our opinion, the following factors should be highlighted that have a negative impact on the economic security of domestic enterprises: protectionist measures of importing countries, in particular, the Russian Federation; growth of labour migration; a low system of the motivation of labour potential; growth of inflationary processes.

Therefore, an important issue today is the formation of an appropriate system of economic security of the enterprise, which is impossible without an appropriate theoretical basis. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct a thorough analysis of the essence of the category “economic security of an enterprise” and to establish their main components, taking into account modern changes.

## 2. Study of the essence of the concept of “economic security at the enterprise”

The concept of “economic security” has deep historical roots that begin with references to ancient China and Rome, and ending the era of mercantilism [10, p. 19], where there is a clear distinction between the concepts of “national security” and “economic security”.

In the modern scientific literature, one can find many different interpretations of the concept of “economic security of an enterprise”. So some scientists [11] emphasize that the economic security at the enterprise, first of all, is the protection of the enterprise’s potential from the negative impact of both external and internal factors.

Others [8, p. 178], for example, determine the economic security of the enterprise as a set of all possible factors that will enable enterprise independence, stability and ability to progress in destabilizing conditions.

Melnyk O. [5, p. 98] notes that the economic security of the enterprise is the protection and different ways to eliminate the influence of all the negative factors of the market environment, thanks to the use of resources available in the enterprise.

A number of authors noted in their interpretations the positive results that an effective system of economic security at the enterprise brings. For example, Gapak N. [2, p. 63]

noted that economic security guarantees prosperity, development, improvement of working conditions, and protects the enterprise from the impact of economic risks.

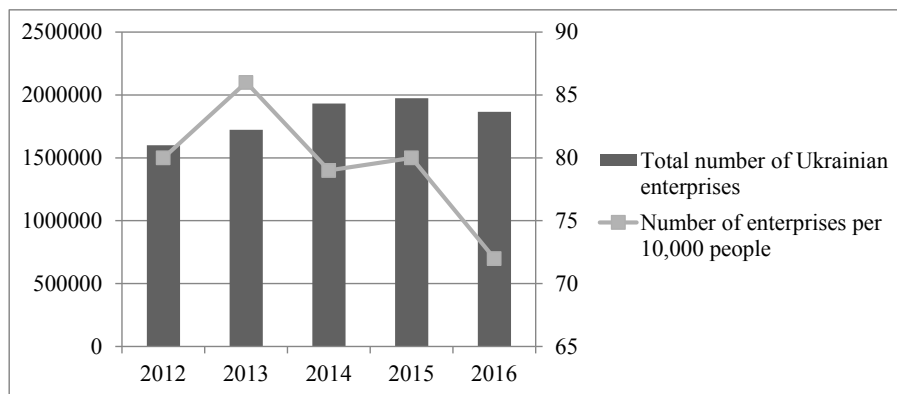
Other economists [12] argue that the economic security of an enterprise is achieved only by the harmony of the interests of the given enterprise with the interests of business entities with which it is confronted.

Some scholars emphasize the competitive advantages. So, for example, Belokurov V. [1] under the economic security of the enterprise understands the presence at the enterprise of a significant number of competitive advantages.

Based on the results of the study, we identified six different approaches, which today best describe this category: stable; resource-functional; harmonization; protective; market; competitive and unified.

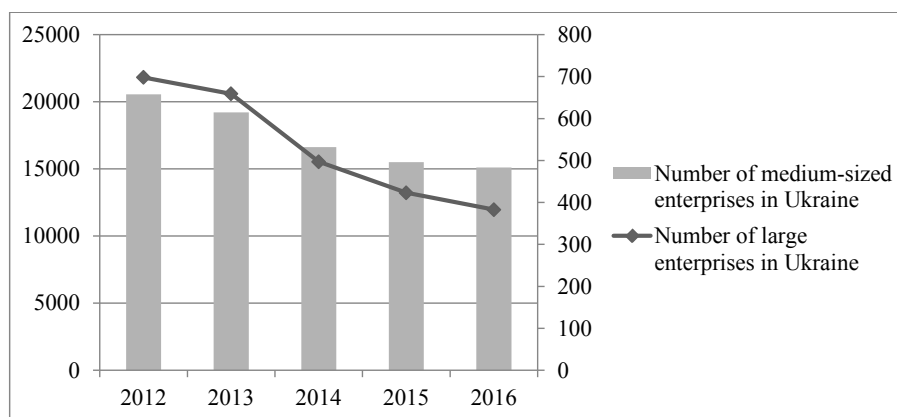
Characteristics of the approaches to the definition of the concept of “economic security of the enterprise” are presented in Table 1.

Today one of the most common approaches can be considered as resource-functional. Its supporters argue that, in order to ensure economic security, an enterprise should use its resources as efficiently as possible to combat threats and allocate functional components in order to create the proper conditions for stable operation.



**Graph 2. Dynamics of the total number of Ukrainian enterprises for the period of 2012–2016, numbers**

Source: formed according to the source [9]



**Graph 3. Dynamics of the number of large and medium-sized enterprises in Ukraine for the period of 2012–2016, numbers**

Source: formed according to the source [9]

Table 1

**Characteristics of the approaches to the definition of the concept of “economic security of the enterprise”**

№	Approach	Characteristic
1	Stable approach	The economic security of an enterprise is defined as the ability of the enterprise to provide adequate stability, progressive development, and balance under the influence of certain threats
2	Protective approach	The economic security of an enterprise is defined as the degree of protection of the enterprise from certain threats
3	Harmonization approach	The economic security of an enterprise is viewed as the harmony of the interests of the enterprise with the interests of the external environment
4	Market approach	The economic security of an enterprise is characterized as the protection of the economic interests of the enterprise in the conduct of its economic activity in market conditions
5	Resource-functional approach	Ensuring the economic security of an enterprise is possible only with the effective use of resources to prevent threats and isolate functional components, to create conditions for stable operation
6	Competitive approach	The focus is on the competitive advantages of the enterprise and its strengths

Source: formed by the authors

In our opinion, the resource-functional approach has a number of shortcomings, which are manifested precisely because the emphasis is narrowed only on the internal resources of the enterprise used. The economic security of an enterprise should be considered more broadly, namely, as an integrated system, all possible measures and protective methods designed to support such a condition of the enterprise, which allows it to continuously, competitively, and stably perform its activities in any conditions and respond in a timely manner to all threats or dangers that may threaten its sustainable development. This statement covers the best of all the above approaches and allows us to single out our own approach – unified.

**3. Definition of the basic components of economic security of the enterprise**

In the scientific literature, you can find a large number of components of economic security at the enterprise, therefore, according to the results of the conducted research of scientific literature on the establishment of the main functional components of the economic security at the enterprise, we came to the conclusion that

the following components are the best and most widely disclosed character of this concept: financial; staffing; informational; innovative; technological; legal.

First priority is given to the financial component because it is a “blood subsystem” of economic security, further staffing for the fact that staff can not only help improve the level of security but also become a kind of threat to it. In the future, it is necessary to protect the most important internal information and innovative ideas and increase its technological potential. All this in the end, it is necessary to legally formalize and provide legal protection.

**Conclusions.** To date, economic security plays a crucial role in ensuring the stable development of any enterprise. Threats to the internal and external environment of the operation of the enterprise can be formed in any component of the enterprise: from financial to staffing. Therefore, it is very important to take into account each component in the process of ensuring the economic security of an enterprise in order to prevent the formation of a financial crisis.

In the future, more attention should be paid to researching the possibilities of improving the mechanism for ensuring the economic security of the enterprise.

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